

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 AID-05 IO-13 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01  
XMB-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /103 W  
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FM AMBMEBASSY NDJAMENA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8138

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SHUM, CD  
SUBJECT: 1978 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

REF: STATE 212861

A. CHAD:

THE END OF AUGUST WITNESSED THE DISSOLUTION OF CHAD'S THREE YEAR OLD MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND THE INSTITUTION OF A FUNDAMENTAL CHARTER TO GOVERN THE COUNTRY UNTIL A PERMANENT CONSTITUTION IS ADOPTED AND AN ELECTED CIVILIAN REGIME TAKES OVER. AN APPARENTLY WEAKENING CIVIL WAR CONTINUES TO BE WAGED AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT BY LIBYAN-BACKED ISLAMIC REGELS WHO NOW CONTROL THE NORTHERN HALF OF THE COUNTRY DESPITE THIS WAR, CHAD MAINTAINED A GOOD RECORD ON HUMAN RIGHTS. DURING THE PAST YEAR, ALL BUT ONE OF THOSE IMPRISONED FROM THE REGIME OF FORMER PRESIDENT TOMBALBAYE WERE RELEASED OR TRIED IN FAIR AND OPEN HEARINGS. A LEGAL CASE IS BEING PREPARED AGAINST THE ONE FORMER MINISTER STILL IN DETENTION. APPROXIMATELY TWENTY FROLINAT SYMPATHIZERS, INCLUDING A FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE, WERE ROUNDED UP LAST SPRING IN NDJAMENA AS SUSPECTED MEMBERS OF AN

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URBAN TERRORIST RING. THEY CONTINUE TT BE HELD FOR INVESTIGATION. AMONG THE PRINCIPAL POLICY PLANKS OF THE NEW FUNDAMENTAL CHARTER IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEMOCRACY WHICH GUARANTEES LIBERTY AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL, SECULARITY OF THE STATE AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF ALL IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

B. 1. RESPECT FOR THE INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON;

A. TORTURE IS NOT SYSTEMATICALLY PRACTICED IN CHAD,  
ALTHOUGH PRISONERS ARE SOMETIMES ABUSED AT THE TIME OF  
ARREST XLR MAY BE MISTREATED DURING INTERROGATION.

B. CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISH-  
MENT HAS NOT BEEN A CONDITION OF CHADIAN IMPRISONMENT  
ALTHOUGH ITS JAILS ARE DIRTY AND UNCOMFORTABLE.

C. ARBITRARY ARREST IS POSSIBLE UNDER SUCURITY LAWS AND  
SUSPECTS MAY BE HELD LONG PERIODS FOR PRE-TRIAL INVESTIGATION.  
THIS LATTER ALSO MAY OCCUR UNDER ORDINARY CRIMINAL  
PROCEDURES.

D. TRIALS ARE PUBLIC IN COMMON COURTS, BUT SECURITY  
GND MILITARY MATTERS ARE TRIED BEFORE CLOSED MILITARY  
TRIBUNALS.

E. INVASION OF THE HOME IS POSSIBLE UNDER ANTI-  
TERRORIST SECURITY MEASURES.

2. GOVERNMENT POLICIES RELATING TO FULFILLMENT  
OF VITAL HUMAN NEEDS.  
THE GOVERNMENT OF CHAD IS COMMITTED TO MAXIMIZING  
SATISFACTION OF VITAL HUMAN NEEDS SUCH AS FOOD, SHELTER,  
HEALTH SERVICE IS CONSIDERED A BASIC  
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HUMAN RIGHT AND CARE IS FREE AT PUBLIC HELATH CENTERS, BUT  
THESE ARE LOCATED ONLY IN URBAN AREAS AND MAJOR VILLAGES.  
SCARCERESOURCES PREVENT ESTABLISHING UNIVERSAL PRIMARY  
EDUCATION, BUT GOVERNMENT EDUCATION REFORM IS COMMITTED  
TO THE WIDEST POSSIBL EXTENSION. GOVERNMENT FOOD POLICY  
HAS BEEN LARGELY ONE OF COORDINATING FAMINE RELIEF, BUT  
IT IS WORKING ON PLANS FOR A GRAIN STABILIZATION FUND AND  
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE. THE TAX SYSTEM IS  
MODERATELY REGRESSIVE, BUT MOST OF THE POPULATION LIVES  
AT THE SUBSISTENCE LEVEL AND IS NOT AFFECTED. CORRUPTION  
IS NOT A SERIOUS PROBLEM IN CHAD.

3. CIVIL AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES:

A. FREEDOM OF RELIGION IS GUARANTEED IN THE NEW  
FUNDAMENTAL CHARTER AND WAS ALSO A BASIC TENET OF THE  
PREVIOUS MILITARY GOVERNMENT. FREEDOM OF SPEECH, PRESS  
AND ASSEMBLY ARE GUARANTEED IN THEORY, BUT STUDENTS HAVE  
BEEN ARRESTED FOR DISTRIBUTING ANTI-GOVERNMENT TRACTS AND  
OTHER INDIVIDUALS CRITICIZED FOR PUBLICIZING THEIRDIS-  
SATISFACTION WITH OFFICIAL POLICIES.

B. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN THE COUNTRY IS CURTAILED BECAUSE OF ARMED REBELLION AND BANDITRY IN SEVERAL REGIONS. EMIGRATION AND FOREIGN TRAVEL ARE CONTROLLED, BUT NOT IN REPRESSIVE FASHION.

C. THE FUNDAMENTAL CHARTER SETS AS A GOAL UNIVERSAL PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS. TO DATE, HOWEVER, THERE ARE NO ELECTORAL PROCEDURES, POLITICAL PARTIES, TRADE UNIONS OR OTHER MECHANISMS FOR PARTICIPATION. THERE IS NO DISCRIMINATION BY SEX, RACE OR CASTE.

4. GOVERNMENTAL ATTITUDE TOWARD NGO INVESTIGATION:  
WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY ATTEMPTS BY A NON-GOVERNMENTAL  
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ORGANIZATION TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGED VIOLATIONS IN CHAD.  
BRADFORD

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## Message Attributes

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